

DELISTED - (DEMOLISHED)  
1982 NRHP  
1997 VLR

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Harrisonburg (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE 9/22/91

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Morrison House

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Morrison House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
NW corner of intersection of West Market and North Liberty Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Harrisonburg

STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: (in cit.)	CODE 660
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Year <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) vacant	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Wetzel Seed Company-land  
Rockingham County Historical Society - house

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Harrisonburg

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Rockingham County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Harrisonburg

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Room 1116, Ninth Street Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 51

STATE: VIRGINIA

COUNTY: HARRISONBURG (in cit.)

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Morrison House is a two-story, single pile, brick town house with a later two-story brick rear ell. Both the main section of the house and the rear ell are covered by shallow gable roofs, with the main section having a wooden box cornice, and the ell having a molded brick cornice typical of Valley structures of the mid-nineteenth century. The house exhibits simple but pleasing proportions of an almost mathematical regularity. This regularity is echoed in the superb Flemish bond brickwork in the main section. The south wall in particular is notable as being a rare surviving example of Valley Flemish bond with a glazed header pattern. This brickwork, with its very thin and even mortar joints is more similar to the brickwork of Philadelphia than of eastern Virginia. Glazed headers are employed only randomly in the other walls of the building. The house's foundation is of the native limestone laid in irregular ashlar, and is joined into the brick walls by a quarter-round brick water table. The later rear ell is laid in common bond with Flemish variation, and is very skillfully joined to the main part of the house. The main section is heated by two interior end chimneys, while the wing has an interior end chimney and a side chimney.

On the interior of the main section, all four principal rooms and the hall retain their original baseboard and chair rail. The hall features its original three-story open string stair with its very refined scrolled ends. The first floor north room is notable for its fine reeded mantel flanked by matching built-in glass door cupboards.

Both the interior and exterior of the house are essentially unaltered, retaining nearly all the original fabric in a good state of preservation. The house is in good structural condition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                       |  |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian; | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century   | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Believed to be the second oldest house still standing in Harrisonburg, the Morrison House is a practically unaltered example of the Shenandoah Valley brick town houses of the Federal period which were once numerous in the towns and villages along the main Valley Pikes. The design and construction of the house exhibits influences from both eastern Virginia and Pennsylvania. A notable feature of the dwelling is the superb Flemish bond brickwork, and especially the glazed header pattern in the north wall. This header pattern could perhaps be the latest example of its type extant in Virginia.

The noted Valley historian, John W. Wayland in his book Historic Harrisonburg concluded that the house was built between 1820 and 1824 by Joseph Thornton, replacing an earlier log structure on the lot. An 1824 map of a portion of the city referred to the location as "Thornton's Brick House." A later owner, Andrew Irick, added the rear ell in 1845. The ell was used as a post office in 1854, and later served as a tavern. In 1858, the Morrison family occupied the house, and purchased it several years later. The Morrison occupancy terminated one hundred years later with the death of Miss Elizabeth Morrison in 1968.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Terrell, Isaac Long. Old Houses in Rockingham County 1750-1850.  
 Verona, Va.: McClure Printing Company, 1970.  
 Wayland, John. Historic Harrisonburg. Staunton, Va.: McClure Printing  
 Company, 1949.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	38 °	27 ' 00 "	78 ° 52' 15 "
NE	° ' "	° ' "			
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than ten acres.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES:

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: October 30, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Room 1116, Ninth Street Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name

*Edw P Alexander*

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman  
 The Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date

11/3/70

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

9/22/71

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Harrisonburg (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Morrison House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Morrison House			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: NW corner of intersection of West Market and North Liberty Streets			
CITY OR TOWN: Harrisonburg			
STATE: Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: (in cit.)	CODE 660
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle Harrisonburg, Va.			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1964			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Harrisonburg (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
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AND/OR HISTORIC: Morrison House			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: NW corner of intersection of West Market and North Liberty Streets			
CITY OR TOWN: Harrisonburg			
STATE: Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: (in cit.)	CODE 660
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Rockingham County Historical Society			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rockingham County Historical Society Harrisonburg, Virginia			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  View from the southeast.			

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (Scale:1:24000)  
Harrisonburg, Va. 1964

Morrison House  
Latitude 38° 27' 00"  
Longitude 78° 52' 15"

